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mained some time in consultation. They were evidently in doubt what to do, and were in the highest degree surprised at the reception they had met with, though their Indian pride prevented their betraying any astonishment. After a time one of their number, a very tall and stalwart chief, returned to the house, fastened a white feather above the door, and with a friendly salutation, returned to his band, who soon disappeared from view in the depths of the forest. It was a badge of friendship and peace on the part of the Indians. Throughout the remainder of the war, bands of savage warriors on the war-path passed that lonely farm-house, but observing the sign of peace above the door, they passed on without molesting the inmates, or injuring their property.

#### SELF-SACRIFICE.

God mend his heart who cannot feel  
The impulse of a holy zeal;  
And sees not with his sordid eyes,  
The beauty of self-sacrifice!  
Though in the sacred place he stands,  
Uplifting consecrated hands,  
Unworthy are his lips to tell  
Of Jesus' martyr miracle.

Not to the swift nor to the strong,  
The battles of the right belong;  
For he who strikes for freedom, wears  
The armor of the captive's prayers;  
And nature proffers to his cause  
The strength of her eternal laws;  
While he whose arm essays to bind,  
And herd with common brutes his kind,  
Strives evermore at fearful odds  
With nature and the jealous gods,  
And dares the dread recoil which late  
Or soon, their right shall vindicate.

WHITTIER.

#### STANDING ARMIES THE GREAT CURSE OF NATIONS.

Five millions and a half of men under arms, and that, too, when the rulers of the various nations are constantly proclaiming their international relations all harmonious, and Europe in a state of profound peace! Anything more absurd than is conveyed in this simple statement, can hardly be expressed in words. What signify all these protestations against war of the Emperor of the French, the Czar of Russia, and the King of Prussia, while compelling almost every perfectly sound man in their respective dominions to quit the path of industrial life, and enter the ranks of the military? Until the nations begin mutually to disarm themselves, we shall treat all these peace professions as hollow mockery, an insult to the common sense of mankind. The flower of France, for instance, is in her army; the soundest, the healthiest, the tallest, and the handsomest are to be found in the uniform of the soldier, who, instead of earning the bread he eats, is doomed to pass the dreary hours of drill in learning the art of killing his fellow-man.

The *economy* of the question will not bear investigation. The whole system is wrong and ruinous from beginning to end. It will not bear the light of reason, much less the light of Christianity. We will admit that Napoleon III. is a sincere and genuine patriot and philanthropist. We believe he uttered the honest sentiment of his inmost heart in his recent speech, in declaring that for twenty years the glory and welfare of France was the motive of his grand ambition. But how can France, or any other country,

prosper under the crushing burthens of a standing army of a million of the "picked men" of the nation? As the soldier seldom marries, the "refuse" of the male population are left to propagate their species. A sickly, rickety youth, utterly unsound in mind and body, is permitted to reproduce his deformities and diseases, and to become as my Lord Hamlet says, "a breeder of sinners," while all the strong and stalwart young men are herded in barracks, or made "food for powder" on the field of battle. No wonder the conscript laws of France have recently lowered the standard of admission to the army. The human race is dwindling through bad breeding, while that of horses, dogs, sheep, and cattle, is yearly improving in consequence of the more intelligent attention given to the laws of reproduction.

Why do France and Prussia persist in arming themselves to the teeth? The Emperor Napoleon and King William profess to be on the best possible terms, and neither power contemplates robbing or wronging the other. Surely the great mass of the people do not want to go to war, only a few interested manufacturers of war materials, who care not how many men are slaughtered so long as it brings grist to their powder mills, and money to their gun manufactories. It was the artisans of Ephesus who "made shrines for Diana," that raised such an outcry against the new religion, which did away with their idol; and now it is the artisans who supply the Moloch of War that oppose every possible obstacle to the progress of Peace. Take away the manufacturers of munitions, the army contractors, the young officers who are ambitious to become generals, and the generals aspiring to the marshal's *bâton*, and the bloody war epoch, among all civilized nations, would be for ever past.

Actions, not words, are what we want on the part of the crowned heads, rulers into whose hands Providence has committed the destinies of men and nations. An armed peace is almost as insupportable a state as actual war, while the costly absurdity of such a condition of things is not less offensive to logical economy than burthensome to the pockets of the people. The strain upon both the patience and the pockets of the tax-payers is tremendous. The *status quo* cannot much longer endure. A general war or a mutual disarming is the only alternative. It is the law of force to expand and expend itself. These high-pressure military forces of Europe cannot much longer be held in check. The cords must be slackened, or the arrows will be spent. It is the opinion of many sagacious observers of events, that a general European war cannot be avoided; that it is "manifest destiny;" and that it will be short, sharp, and decisive, the last red deluge before the advent of the Millennium. All we can say is, may Heaven avert the supreme calamity!—*Cosmopolitan*.

A queer preparation surely for the Millennium—"a general European War that shall be short, sharp, and decisive!" Yet such is the absurd dream of many an otherwise intelligent Christian—that the worst hell of war ever known is to usher these Christian butchers of one another into a heaven of peace!! Why not carry out this logic, and say that to turn earth into a very pandemonium is the way to fit these demons incarnate for celestial purity and bliss?

MORALITY BINDING ON ALL ALIKE.—The duties of men, of subjects, of princes, of law-givers, of magistrates and of States, are, all of them, parts of one consistent system of universal morality.